

Canton, the City of Revolutionists, Dreams of a New China

Men Educated in America Lead New Revolution for Republic

Parliament and President Named for Province and Up-to-Date Western Methods Supplant Languid Policies of Old

By Nathaniel Peffer

CANTON, China, May 15.

BOMBARDMENTS of firecrackers, parades and much waving of flags and banners give Canton a celebratory air these days. A parliament has met, a President has been elected and a new government proclaimed. Thus begins a new Chinese revolution, if it is not more accurate to say a new phase of the same old Canton revolution.

For this is Canton, birthplace and natural home of Chinese intransigence. Here have been manufactured and launched the various revolutions that have made the tortuous course of events since China became a republic, at least nominally, in 1911. It is Canton that has for four years stood in the way of national unification, which the powers have stipulated as prerequisite to any international help for China. Canton is the stronghold of South China.

The causes that have brought about the separation of North China and South China are numerous, varied and involved. They are historical, temperamental and even racial. The northerner is by temperament, environment and political precedent conservative. The southerner is for the same reasons radical, even unstable. The north has never really believed in the republic. Such republican sentiment as exists is found among the educated classes of the south. But the military leaders of the north, survivors of the monarchist régime, paying only lip loyalty to the republic, have remained in control of the national capital at Peking, and that control has inevitably forced fundamental issues with the republicans and radicals of the south.

Most of the Provinces Give Allegiance to Neither Side

In a sense, to talk of north and south is inaccurate. At present the southern cause is upheld only by Kwangtung province, of which Canton is the capital. The other southern provinces give allegiance neither to Peking nor Canton. They are virtually independent. The same is true in the north. Peking's sway extends little beyond the capital itself. The other northern provinces also are practically independent.

Strictly speaking, there is no government in China. The capitulation of Canton would not mean the unification of China. It would only put one province under Peking's rule. When, therefore, the Consortium insists that there be national unification, meaning peace between Peking and Canton, before it will make a loan to China, it raises a wholly artificial issue. Unification of China involves much more than a peace conference between north and south.

In any comparison between Peking and Canton, Peking must suffer. In comparison with any other political center Peking would suffer. Probably there is no other world capital so corrupt, so venal, so completely degraded as Peking. And it is characteristic of the whole course of Western diplomacy in China that it is Peking that the powers recognize and support. Since the Western powers have first had formal relations with China, they have consistently backed the wrong horse. They have always given their support, morally and financially, to the reactionary elements and simultaneously deplored China's backwardness.

In Canton there is some ground for hope for China's future. In Peking there is none. There is less corruption here. There is less political intrigue. There is a measure of patriotism. There is at least the outline of a program for reconstruction.

Government Has Abolished Public Fantan Houses

Some beginning has been made concretely. In the first place, licensed gambling has been abolished. The public fantan houses, picturesque sights to tourists, but a curse to the poor of the city, have been closed, meaning a loss of several million dollars in revenue every year to a government which cannot make both ends meet. A municipal government has been established in Canton itself, the first of its kind in China. A commission form of government has been set up, with a municipal council which is to be elected by popular vote. Registration has been in progress since I have been here.

At the head of the city government is a group of American-educated young men, all of them with special training for their offices. To get an idea of their plans I was invited to lunch with them at a sort of tiffin club which meets daily at one of Canton's famous old restaurants. We met at 12:30. At ten minutes to two they arose and excused themselves. They made it their practice to be back at their offices at 7. One might live in Peking for decades and not experience that. There officials, having played sparrow half through the night, gets up toward noon and proceeds leisurely to its yamens, if it goes there at all.

Similarly, the hsien, or county system, is to be reformed. The old system of district mandarins, minor dictators over three or four hundred thousand people, is to be abolished. The people of the district will have a voice in the selection of their administrators, who will have executive power only. Judicial power will be vested in a trained, provincially appointed judiciary. What legislative power is necessary will be vested in a district council popularly elected. In that way it is hoped to achieve representative government by beginning at the bottom, and not by handing it down from the top, as it

was hoped to do in 1911. The Chinese have begun to perceive that a republic cannot be achieved by merely affixing new names to offices.

Ancient Wall Demolished; Roads Supplant Narrow Lanes

One need only get off the small river boat from Hong Kong to see signs of great change in Canton. There is something of the atmosphere of a new mining town superimposed on an ancient city.

The city wall has been torn down. Around the labyrinth of narrow lanes that have been the city's only streets for centuries is a belt of newly made broad roads. It is possible now to ride in motor cars as well as sedan chairs. Inside the city houses and shops are being torn down to make new thoroughfares where the streets have been from eight to twelve feet wide. Old temples are being made over for schools and charitable institutions. Plans are being drawn for river conservancy, land reclamation and a new harbor. True, ambitious and high-sounding plans have been made in China before, and most of these plans under way here are blithely indifferent to the feelings of the mass of the Chinese people, who don't particularly want change, but now, at least in Canton, the plans are being made by men who sincerely want to carry them out and have begun to do so.

Here, in short, is Young China working in its native habitat, working therefore at its best—and its worst. It is not the Young China that was a decade ago. Failure has taught it much. Disillusionment has been its portion for ten years. It repeats now less confidently the glib old formulas. It has begun to realize that to put constitutions on paper, call parliaments and make the chief executive a president and not a king does not make a republic. It has begun to realize that a change-over of a whole system touching the bases of race culture is necessary.

But there is still a dangerous, sometimes ludicrous, fidelity to phrases. There is still some of the arid imitativeness of American forms superficially learned in American colleges, forms growing out of American conditions and impossible to apply in China. There is an unwillingness to realize the meaning of the drift of events in China in the last few years, the meaning of the complete national disintegration and the overpowering influence of Japan. The elaborate preoccupation with the technique of revolutions overshadows all considerations of actualities in China. For the question is no longer whether or not there shall be constitutionalism in China, but whether or not there shall be any such political entity as China at all.

This attitude is responsible for the divergence of view that has made a considerable cleavage among the Cantonese leaders. Two alternative policies have been before them. One is to recognize that Kwangtung Province stands alone and can make no pretense of being a national government, and, recognizing that, to concentrate on the provincial reconstruction program. That is, to set up for the first time in China an honest, efficient, model provincial government which by contrast with the chaos and corruption of the rest of the country will draw other provinces into the fold and serve as a nucleus of a new national government.

Moderate Leaders See Need of Model Government

This policy has been advocated by men like Tang Shao-yi, Wu Ting-fang, Governor Chen Chung-ming and others of the Moderate wing, who have had more actual experience in Chinese politics and know something of existing conditions. They are not concerned with capturing Peking or getting recognition by foreign powers. They see only the necessity of stopping the drift into chaos and setting up a government somewhere where the peasant is free from the depredations of brigand bands and the merchant is not mulcted by corrupt officials.

The other policy is to concentrate on the fight against Peking and to compel the other provinces by force to recognize Canton. This contemplates the proclamation of a provisional government, the sitting of a parliament, the election of a president and a military campaign against neighboring provinces. And that requires a diversion of funds and energy into other channels than reconstruction.

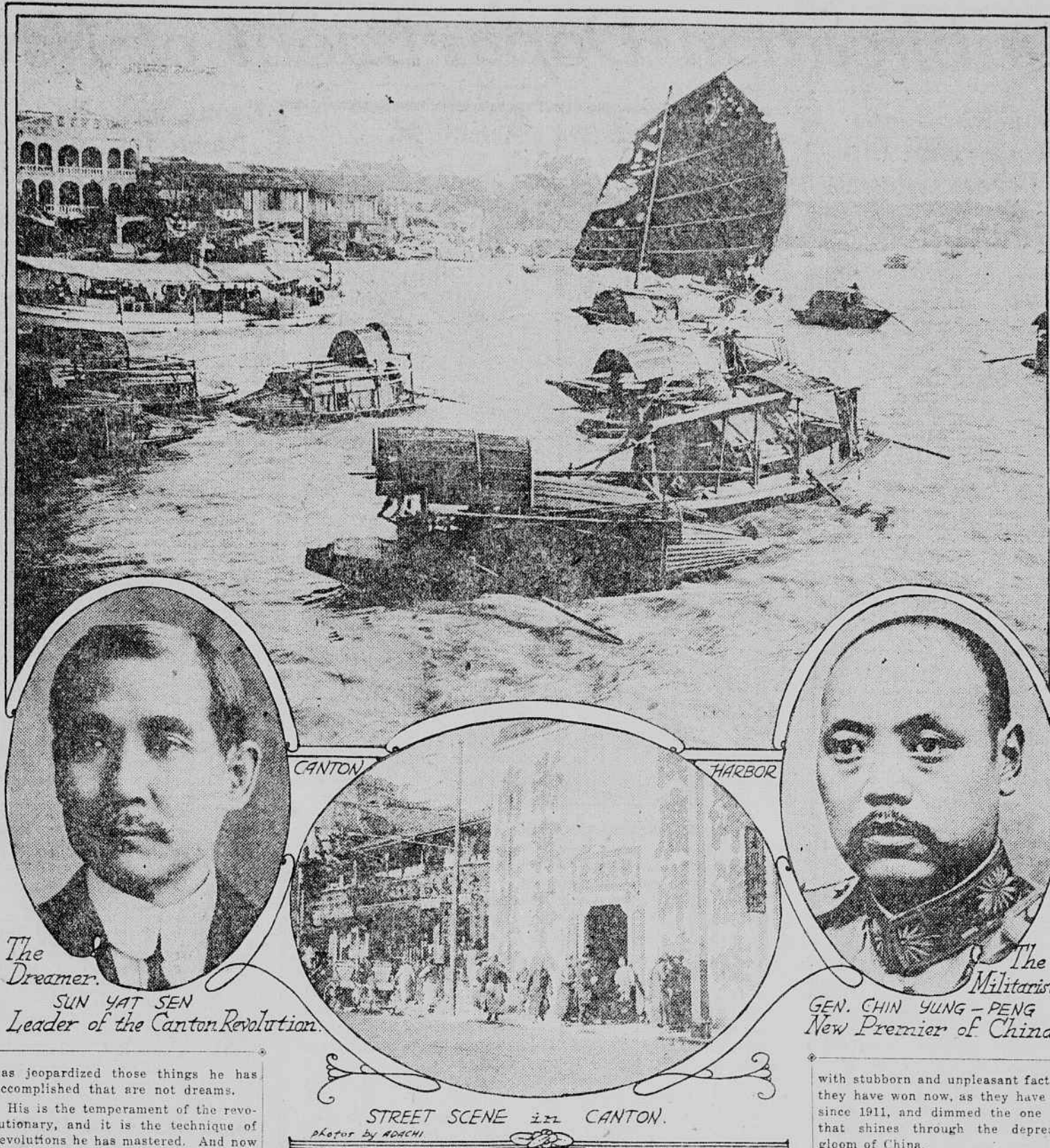
This is the policy advocated by Sun Yat-sen and his following, and up to the present it has won out. The rump parliament which has been sitting at various times and in various places since 1913 has met, proclaimed a government and elected Sun Yat-sen President. The military campaign undoubtedly will follow.

To make clear the causes for this outcome would require a detailed character analysis of that curious figure Sun Yat-sen and a lengthy history of the whole New China movement and its origins. More important is Sun himself. Part early Christian prophet, part Bonaparte and part demagogue, he is a magnetic and fascinating personality of inexplicable contrasts.

Dreams Fantastic Things And Then Makes Them Real

Unhindered by facts, he dreams fantastic dreams and then proceeds to make them real. For twenty years he dreamed the dream of a republic, and all men who knew China mocked—and against all reason it came to pass. But the pursuance of some of his dreams

The City of Rebels and China's Conflicting Forces



They say "yee" to all his mirages, and he believes the whole world sees with him. They themselves are obsessed with revolution. It has been their career. Their education is chiefly American; they live principally in the semi-foreign outposts; their knowledge of the life of the millions of China is superficial. They believe it is necessary only to hold Peking and set up the machinery of a republic on American lines, and lo, there will be a republic. That it is necessary first to reeducate a whole race, to build a new system from the very bottom and create a new morality to replace one rooted centuries deep they cannot bring themselves to face.

Experienced in the use of propaganda that convinces by its eloquence, they are invincible against those armed only with stubborn and unpleasant facts. So they have won now, as they have ever since 1911, and dimmed the one hope that shines through the depressing gloom of China.

Still Sun Yat-sen's impossible dreams have come true before. This one may also. The fact remains that whatever hope there is for China's emergence from chaos lies here in Canton. Inexperienced, callow, misguided, whatever may be said of these men here, their impulses are right. That cannot be said of the governing caste in Peking. These may not be the individuals who ultimately win out in China, but it will inevitably be men of their school.

Exploring the Arctic in a Cockleshell

EAST BOOTHBAY, Me., June 11.

WHEN Professor Donald B. McMillan sails from Portland early in July for a two years' exploration voyage in the Arctic regions it will be in a ship which is a radical departure from any polar craft of the last fifty years. His vessel, named Bowdoin, in honor of his alma mater and for the college alumni who are financing the voyage, is a cockleshell of a vessel. She is only 88 feet 10 inches in length, has a depth of only 9 feet and 6 inches, and is 19 feet and 7 inches wide.

This smallness creates curiosity in all who see the vessel here while it is being rigged and put in readiness for the departure. "How can such a craft live in the polar ice?" they ask the explorer, who is giving his personal attention to the preparation of the Bowdoin.

He smiles and answers: "Why, if I could carry the supplies necessary for this trip I would go in a fisherman's dory and be sure of success—a canoe would be even better."

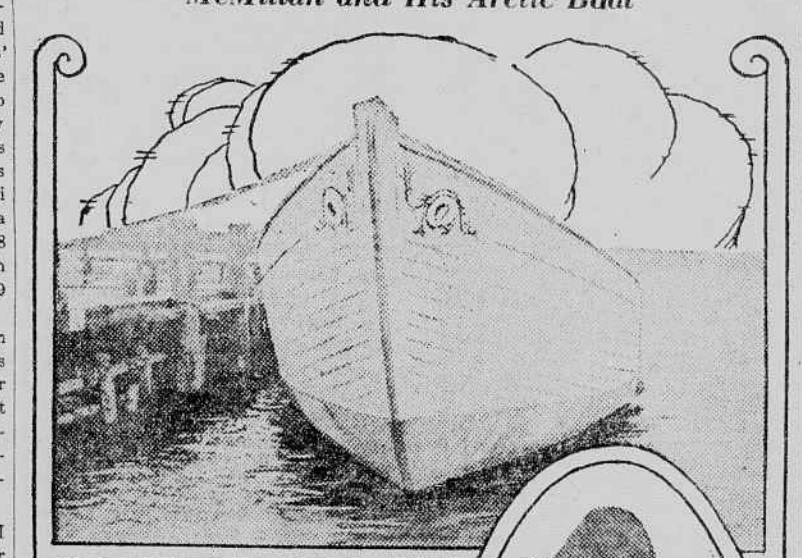
Professor McMillan is not talking theory when he says this, for his words are the result of judgment based upon many years of work in the north Arctic zone. Although a young man, he has made a number of voyages to the north. He was with Admiral Peary when that explorer made his successful dash to the pole and has himself made several important discoveries in the North. His 500-mile exploration trip along the coast of Labrador gave to the world much valuable information concerning that land. That trip was made in a canoe.

Less Danger of Wrecking Small Craft, Says Explorer

In explanation of his preference for a small craft Professor McMillan says that it is in far less danger of being lost. All the voyaging is done through uncharted seas. No navigator has the slightest knowledge of conditions which exist. A small vessel is less likely to go aground and be wrecked than a larger one. Professor McMillan tells how near they came to losing the Roosevelt (Peary's North Pole vessel), and she was not an exceptionally large craft.

The Bowdoin is built from designs drawn by Professor McMillan, which were approved by Admiral Peary, as well as by other explorers. There is a radical change in the design of the ship's hull, as well as in size, from that of other polar ships. This hull is egg shaped. It gives no chance for ice to cling to the side of the ship, and

as a result, explains Professor McMillan, when caught in the ice the Bowdoin will be raised up out of harm's way instead of being crushed, as have been so many of her predecessors. Commenting upon this feature of the Bowdoin in connection with her smallness of size, Professor McMillan says: "Did you ever watch a great crowd of people—a jam? If you have you have noticed that small men do not get crushed. The crowd lifts them off their feet and out of harm's way; that is the result I expect with the Bowdoin when she is caught in the ice packs."



Professor McMillan is making this trip to explore the coast line of Baffin's Land, discovered in 1616 by Baffin. It is an interesting coincidence that the ship in which Baffin first visited that region was of the exact dimensions of the Bowdoin. Accommodations are provided on the Bowdoin for a crew of six men. Every man will be an expert in some line—geology, mineralogy, natural history, botany or other science. But beyond that they must know how to hunt and fish and be able to take care of themselves under all conditions. "Their lives or that of a companion may depend upon their ability to shoot game, catch fish and to prepare it once it has been obtained," says Professor McMillan.

The construction of the ship is like that of the largest five-masted schooner afloat, and then, to make her more solid, she has been given a five-foot belt of ironwood at the water line. This was used instead of metal because experience has proved to Professor McMillan that it is superior in Arctic work. She is of the knockabout schooner rig, having an auxiliary power engine of the crude oil type and of forty-five horsepower. Her tanks will carry 3,000 gallons of crude oil and 500 gallons of kerosene oil. This is sufficient to give 500 hours' sailing under power, which is equal to 4,000 miles cruising. Professor McMillan is of the opinion that it will be possible to use whale oil in the engine and will make experiments to determine this. Should this prove correct the power cruising radius of the Bowdoin will be greatly increased, for it will be a comparatively

easy matter to replenish the oil supply with whale oil in the Arctic region. When the Bowdoin sails for the North Professor McMillan will have a sextant presented to him by the people of Wiscasset, Me., where he has passed much time during his life. The vessel will have supplies for two years, but Professor McMillan expects to complete his work and return in about fourteen months.

British Government Sells Airplanes for 60 Cents Each

LONDON, June 1.—The British government recently sold a number of airplanes for 60 cents apiece at the Lincoln airfield disposal sale here.

The machines had become out of date after several years of service and had been junked, the wings and the engines being removed. Nevertheless, the purchasers who paid 60 cents for an airplane received the body of the machine with the copper fittings and pipes, which in all originally cost several hundred pounds.

The purchasers, for the greater part, were anxious to buy the planes to break up for firewood during the coal shortage. Small boys dragged their fathers along to buy a plane, so that they might get the wheels to use on scooters and home-made automobiles.

Hunting Is Favorite Sport Of Lenine and Commissars

HELSINGFORS, June 1.—According to the Nova Russkaia Jijn, published here, hunting is the favorite sport of the Moscow commissars of the Soviet government. Lenine is an advocate of the sport, and according to refugees arriving in Helsingfors has been out wolf hunting at Savidovo in the imperial motor car, accompanied by his two hushmen, Tomsy and Roudoudak. Krylenko, the former commander in chief, is a mighty hunter also, and has become commissary for this department of the new Russian government.

Apocryphal of the Soviet, the story is being told of a department commissioner who was ordered shot by his successor in office. The newcomer came onto the scene as the former commissioner faced the firing squad and said:

"You won't mind if my men happen to miss you the first time they fire, as they're very inexperienced at executions."

"That's all right," said the veteran, "but you won't mind if I don't fall over the first time I'm shot. I've never been executed before."

Lone London Woman Invades Lair of Wild African Tribe

Chic Explorer Is Received by British King After Adventure Among Senussi Following 1,100-Mile Trip Across Desert

LONDON, May 20.

ENGLAND has ceased to be thrilled over the spectacle of a woman M. P.; now a woman explorer is claiming public attention.

She is Mrs. Rosita Forbes, chic, vivacious and charming, who has just returned to London after traveling 1,100 miles across the Libyan desert in Africa to explore the city of Kufra, headquarters of the Senussi tribe, a fanatic and hostile group whose military adventures recently have caused anxiety in Egypt.

Mrs. Forbes, wearing the native costume, was alone in her daring adventure. She joined a native caravan and, riding a camel, finally crossed the Egyptian frontiers and reached the sacred oasis city where only one European—an explorer of forty years ago—has ever been before. Here she was well received by the tribesmen and given a safeguard back to civilization, but throughout the journey she was surrounded by hostile natives who would have killed her had they known that she was a white woman.

The start of the trip was made from Benghazi, the Mediterranean end of the ancient caravan route from the central Sudan across the Libyan desert. She had previously arranged for a form of passport from the Senussi, but this was of little value, as the tribes through which she passed did not recognize their sovereignty. Spies surrounded the caravan and at the sacred city of Taj the entire party was placed under arrest and thrown into a native prison. After great difficulty they were released and allowed to proceed.

At the oases of Kufra the chiefs welcomed Mrs. Forbes and told her of their plans for political power. On the return journey she again had trouble with the natives and was at one time forced to disguise herself as a man.

Mrs. Forbes made a survey of the country during her journey and collected much valuable information about the national aims of the Senussi tribes. She was forbidden to take pictures, but concealed a small kodak under her flowing native robes and made snap shots through a hole cut in the dress. Returning to London, she has now laid the results of her explorations before the British government and was received by the King. The Senussi are becoming a powerful force in Africa, and when during the war they allied themselves with the Turks, Egypt was fortified against them at a cost of \$300,000,000.

Milan Expenses Doubled Under Socialist Rule

CITY EMPLOYEES ARE PAID FABULOUS SALARIES FOR SUPPORT OF RED RULE

MILAN, June 1.—Since about a year ago the Socialists have succeeded in gaining the majority of the Milan municipal elections. Within a year expenses nearly doubled and the government had to interfere to prevent unlawful taxation. Not only were the salaries of the Socialist employees, the firemen, car drivers and street sweepers doubled and trebled, but favoritism also extended to former army deserters.

An official inquiry finally decided to examine the state of things and the squandering of public money, and this gave most extraordinary results. In view of gaining the compliance of the firemen to act as the Bolshevik bodyguard, extraordinary salaries were paid them in addition to free clothing and board and lodging and not less than twelve cooks to attend to their needs. To cap all this, although free board was supplied, a special indemnity was granted as compensation for the high cost of living. Even a free barber service and easy shaves were allowed.

Among the funny items in expenditure are free drinks for the town councilors attending sittings and the free use of automobiles for Socialist propaganda purposes, and governmental fines paid for unlawful use of motor lorries for pleasure trips. It is likely that some day the Fascisti will effect a general sweep.

Communists Raid Tomb And Destroy Three Bodies

Leader Is Shot by Fascisti Following Crime at Estate of Italian Count

MILAN, June 1.—An example of the state of degradation to which communism can reduce human nature is reported from Rivalta, near Mantova. Rivalta is the manor seat of Count Arrivabene and his family, and where, also, the family tomb exists. Local Bolsheviks, thinking to revenge themselves for the action of young Count Arrivabene in joining the Fascisti, proceeded at night to the churchyard and, knocking down the bronze doors of the Arrivabene mausoleum, broke the marble slabs covering three graves, taking the coffins out.

The inclined coffins were smashed and the embalmed bodies of the brothers Silvio and Alfred Arrivabene, and also the young daughter of the latter, were torn to pieces and the remnants thrown about the churchyard. Metal crosses from several graves were used as working tools to accomplish these infamous acts.

Next morning the Fascisti were not long in reaching the spot, when the leader of the local Communists was immediately shot and his two grown-up sons wounded. The Fascisti's swift and sure action as a sort of vigilance committee will deal with similar cases more effectively than any arrest or legal process and sentence.

Bathers on Brittany Coast Warned to Beware of Octopus

PARIS, June 1.—A warning has been sent out to bathers along the Brittany Coast and the Atlantic seaboard in general to beware of octopus. For the last six months fishermen have been coming out to bathers along the Brittany Coast and the Atlantic seaboard in general to beware of octopus. For the last six months fishermen have been complaining that the presence of these weird sea monsters has both menaced the safety of seafaring men and done damage to the shellfish on which the octopus feeds.

The octopus, made famous by Victor Hugo's story The Tollers of the Sea, is found in all waters along the western and southwestern coasts of France.

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